

THE NEED TO ADDRESS OIL PRICE FIXING

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, recently gasoline prices have increased at rates not seen since the 1970s. While the Clinton-Gore administration vows that it will not tolerate companies who fix prices here at home, it remains reluctant to get tough on foreign countries that simultaneously receive U.S. aid and engage in oil price fixing that affects every American.

Although it is almost too late, it is time that the administration begin working for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans are seeing their family vacation plans evaporate as prices rise. I call upon the administration to adopt a national policy with other oil-consuming nations to take steps towards reducing, suspending, or even eliminating assistance or arms sales to exporters engaged in price fixing.

The hard-working American families deserve more than just a vacation. They deserve national leadership that is concerned about their future rather than the hollow rhetoric and empty promises of the Clinton-Gore White House.

FIREFIGHTER INVESTMENT AND RESPONSE ENHANCEMENT ACT

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am the proud sponsor of the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act, better known as the Fire Bill. It has almost 280 sponsors.

The bill will provide competitive grants directly to over 32,000 paid, part-paid, and volunteer fire departments across America.

On April 12 of this year, we had a hearing on this legislation before the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Emergency Management of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. At this hearing, a colleague from across the aisle stated that my legislation does not have the support of the administration. He challenged me to get it. Today I am here to present the administration's unwavering support of H.R. 1168 to the House.

I have a letter from Jack Lew, who is the Budget Director for the White House. This letter expresses, and I quote, "the Administration supports passage of the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act."

We owe it to the firefighters of America, Mr. Speaker, who put their lives at risk every day to save ours, to bring this legislation to the floor. It is about time we took care of the other side of

the public safety equation, our firefighters.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues the story of Anthony and Timothy Azarmgin. Anthony and Timothy were abducted from Missouri by their noncustodial father, Mr. Tony Hossein Azarmgin, during their father's visitation period on January 2, 1991.

By August of 1991, both warrants for kidnapping and unlawful flight to avoid prosecution were in place. In 1992, Ms. Lewis, the boys' mother, was contacted by Mr. Azarmgin when he insinuated that he and the boys were in another country. In 1994, the Interpol developed reason to believe that Mr. Azarmgin, Anthony, and Timothy were in Tehran, Iran.

In 1994, Ms. Lewis established phone contact with Mr. Azarmgin, but it has been irregular at best. Mr. Azarmgin is not willing to return to the United States unless the charges are dropped.

Mr. Speaker, there are 10,000 American children just like Anthony and Tim who have been abducted to foreign countries. I urge this House to continue to work with me and help bring our children home.

MOVE FORWARD WITH BROWNFIELDS LEGISLATION AND CLEAN UP COMMUNITIES

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY MILLER. Mr. Speaker, there are almost half a million pieces of property in the United States that are polluted and useless because people are afraid to buy them to clean them up.

We have seen these properties. Many of them are fenced with chain-link or have signs that say "hazardous material, keep out." The problem with that is individuals will not buy these properties, because when they do, they accept the historical problems that go along with that, and they accept the liability with EPA and likely to be sued because of that.

We need to change the law. We need to say that individuals and businesses can buy these properties and clean them up and put them to a useful purpose without being concerned about EPA taking them to court and suing them because pollution occurred 40 years ago.

We have done nothing on this. We need to move forward rapidly with Brownfields legislation and help clean up our communities throughout the United States and help put these prop-

erties that are polluted, that are continuing to pollute our environment to a good purpose.

WORLD'S FIRST CANINE TRAVEL AGENCY

(Mr. TRIFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRIFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the world's first canine travel agency opened in Austria. No joke. A company advertises health spas for Rottweilers, massage parlors for Dobermans, beauty parlors for poodles.

If that is not enough to throw up one's Alpo, they offer a frequent flier program for doggy owners who vacation with Fido. Unbelievable. What is next, Mr. Speaker, fire hydrants on all 747s?

Think about it, with children starving all over the world, doggy discos are popping up like beagle patties. Beam me up.

I yield back all the rabies and fleas that have evidently constipated the minds of these rich canine owners who have simply gone to the dogs.

AMERICA NEEDS ENERGY POLICY TO PROTECT AMERICA'S INTERESTS AND FAMILIES

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, driving is not a luxury to most Americans, it is a necessity, especially in the mountain West where I live where one might have to drive 100 miles to go see the doctor.

Americans need their cars, and they need their cars to get to work, to school, to church, and to the grocery store. Truckers need their rigs to deliver food, clothing, and other goods across the Nation.

When gas prices get out of hand, it is more than just inconvenient, it is a considerable financial problem. Truckers across the country are having their livelihoods threatened because they cannot afford the price of fuel. Families are curbing their long-anticipated summer vacation plans. This is simply wrong.

The gas prices that plague our Nation represent a complete failure of the energy policy or lack of energy policy, I should say, of the Clinton-Gore administration. It is time for Mr. Clinton and Mr. GORE to wake up. America needs an energy policy that will protect America's interests, help our families and our national security.